

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
RIO BLANCO COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641
970-878-9430 March 22, 2023



The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Chairman Westerman & Ranking Member Grijalva:

Thank you for taking the time to hold a hearing on H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act. Science is a critically important issue in addressing natural resource and wildlife protections and management. Without it, the management of our important natural resources and wildlife fall prey to the whims of lawsuits, administrative technicalities, and politics.

2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is unfortunate that we are not celebrating the successes of the Act instead of using it as a weapon/tool in politics. The ESA has good intentions and has had many successes. Unfortunately, special interest groups use it as a fundraising tool in multiple ways. They play on uninformed people's emotions and get them to send money so they can file frivolous lawsuits and then double/triple that money through the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) when they get the government to settle out of court or win on a minor technicality. This process costs the United States taxpayers millions of dollars each year and has paralyzed our federal government agencies efforts to implement real science and management that the scientists are hired to do.

Rio Blanco County strongly supports Representative Boebert's H.R. 764, "Trust the Science Act". This Act will allow the ESA to show success and return management of threatened species back to the state wildlife agencies where it belongs for successful management.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado